

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting

May 18, 2000

2:00PM

Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. Barnet, Mrs. Berry, Senator Bryan, Dr. Gummerson, Mrs. Hoag, Mr. Martin, Mr. McTeer, Mr. Smith, Mr. Staton, Representative Townsend, Mr. L. Wilson, Mr. S. Wilson

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the March 23 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. **Subcommittee Reports**

A. **Parent Involvement:** Mr. S. Wilson reported on behalf of the Parent Involvement Subcommittee. He indicated the status of the parent involvement legislation, explained a time line that he and staff had prepared for Subcommittee consideration and announced a June 8 meeting of the Subcommittee;

B. **Academic Standards and Assessments:** Mr. L. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He reviewed the recommendations for the optional grade one and two PACT assessments and asked for approval of the report as distributed. The SDE should respond before the next meeting. He explained interest (raised during the Subcommittee) in the degree and extent of use of the tests. The staff is surveying districts. The Committee approved the report, including recommendations.

Mr. Wilson presented the accountability manual for approval. After discussion of the teacher attendance and professional development factors, the Committee accepted an amendment to provide that until the teacher contract year reaches 195 days, absences for professional development activities for which the district or school has paid a fee or stipend or a district or school administrator has given a teacher to attend may be excused as long as the activities are consistent with state-adopted standards for professional development. The Committee members endorsed continuing efforts to extend the teacher contract year.

The Committee accepted the Subcommittee's recommendation to increase rigor over time for the absolute rating. The Subcommittee recommended that the EOC pursue an active agenda that would identify inhibitors to achievement and strengthen the system. Among the ideas suggested were teacher development and quality, increasing time on task, equity funding, use of technology, parent involvement and consolidation of districts. Members suggested that schools should be given the power to be successful and that a group should be convened to meet and plan with a sense of urgency.

The manual was approved with the amendments to the teacher attendance and professional development factor and a notation that the rigor of the absolute rating would increase over time.

Rep. Townsend asked a number of questions regarding funding and the factor on funding displayed on the report card. He asked that a number of factors are researched and that local effort is given strong consideration. Mr. Wilson indicated the Subcommittee would look at these factors.

- C. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Staton indicated there was no report.
- D. Public Awareness: Mr. Smith distributed the time line and indicated that the Subcommittee had given final approval to the campaign. The launch is scheduled for July 11 and he hopes all members are participating.
- E. Staff and Administration: Mr. Barnett reminded members of the July retreat. He suggested that a major area of discussion is the retention requirement in the EAA. Another area is the plan suggested by the Academic Standards and Assessments Subcommittee.

Dr. Anderson waived any remarks in the interest of time.

IV. **Remarks from a Key Constituency**

Paul Amos, President of SC ETV, discussed the use of interactive technology to meet the critical teaching shortages in SC school districts. He also cited SC's advantages in wireless broadband communications.

V. **Special Presentation**

Drs. Gilbert Hunt and Lance Bedwell, Coastal Carolina University, presented the findings of their case studies of eight SC middle schools. Copies of the report were distributed to members, as were the Executive Summaries.

VI. **Discussion of the GI Forum Suit in Texas**

Dr. Gummerson reviewed the GI Forum suit and compared its issues with the Debra P. V. Turlington suit in Florida. He identified both procedural and substantive concerns. He discussed parallel infrastructure needs in South Carolina and emphasized the importance of teachers having time to learn the standard so that they can teach the students well.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.